Increase in flights on Bombay-Cochin-Bombay sectors

1449. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:
SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the flights on the Bombay-Cochin-Bombay sector in view of increasing traffic demand from the Gulf region; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the winter schedule of 1984-85, Indian Airlines has plans to step up frequencies on this sector from the present 24 to 28 per week.

Aid from West Germany

1450. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West German Government has increased its aid to India considerably during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The West German Government agreed to a total financial allocation of DM 360.00 million for the year 1984-85 compared to their allocation of DM 337.00 million during the year 1983-84. In addition, the allocations for technical assistance and scholarships for 1984-85 was of the order of DM 30.00 million and DM 2.05 million as against DM 34.3 million and DM 2.72 million respectively for 1983-84.

Meeting of Trade Ministers in Washington to discuss International trade problems

1451. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Ministers of 13 countries met in Washington from 10th to 12th May, 1984 to discuss international trade problems;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which participated in the discussion; and

(c) what are the details of the discussion held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some countries were represented by Trade Ministers and a few by their Finance Ministers or other Ministers.

(b) Besides the host country USA, the other countries which participated in the discussions are Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Community, India, Japan Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Sweden, France and Yugoslavia.

(c) The discussions were informal in nature and covered wide ranging issues such as current international economic situation including high interest rates, debt problems and balance of payment difficulties of developing countries; protectionism; trade in services; and the proposal for a new round of trade negotiations in GATT.

Setting up of Dry Ports

1452. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the setting up of Dry Ports in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the cities of the country particularly in Haryana, where such Dry Ports are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up of a

Dry Port in or around Delhi is presently under consideration.

Experiments on artificial rains

1453. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any success has since been achieved by Government in regard to artificial rains in the country;

(b) how many times it has been experimented in India and the places where experiments have been conducted during the last three years; and

(c) what is the future programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) The experiments conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune during the years 1973, '74, '76, '79 and '82 showed an increase in rainfall on an average by about 26 per cent. The experiments conducted during 1980, '81 and '83 showed an average decrease by about 10 per cent. The cloud-seeding operations carried out by Tamil Nadu Government in 1983 indicated some increase in rainfall. The evidence avail able does not lead to a conclusive inference that success has been achieved.

(b) Three experiments have been conducted during the monsoon seasons of 1981 '82 and '83 in Sirur and Baramati regions of Maharashtra by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. Tamil Nadu Government had also conducted cloud-seeding operations in 1983 during the summer monsoon season around Madras city.

(c) Future programmes have not been formulated.

Profits and losses earned/incurred by the Central public sector

1454. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss account of the Central public sector undertakings (other than oil companies) in each of the last three years and so far during the current year; and

(b) the total investment made in these enterprises so far and the estimated investment required to be made to improve the performance of such undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) The sector-wise profit/loss figures of public enterprises (given the profit/loss of oil companies separately) for the years 1982-83 and 1981-82 are available in page no. 26 Table 2.21 of the Public Enterprises Survey 1982-83 (Volume-I), placed on the Table of the House on 28.2.1984. Similar information for 1980-81 is available in Table 2.23 at page 23 of the Public Enterprises Survey 1981-82 (Volume-I) also placed on the Table of the House on 25.2.83. The profit and loss position of individual enterprises for these three years is also available in Volume-3 of Public Enterprises Survey 1982-83. The audited figures for 1983-84 are still under various stages of finalisation by the concerned enterprises.

(b) The investment as on 31.3.83 in these enterprises sector-wise is available at page 153 under para 4.1 of Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1982-83. As the performance of the public enterprises depend on a number of factors and not on investment alone, the question of assessing the investment required to be made to improve the performance of these enterprises does not arise. Additional investments as and required are considered by the Government depending on the merits of individual cases.

Expansion of container facility at the Inland Container Depot of Gauhati

1455. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to expand the contoiner facility at the Inland Container Depot of Gauhati;